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WEEKEND EDITION DECEMBER 26-27, 2020

Tomorrow's weather 45 | 29



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Do you have a passion for writing, photography and local sports? The Wabash Plain Dealer is now accepting applications for paid stringers for the upcoming winter sports season. To apply, email your writing and photography clips, cover letter, resume and list of references to [rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com](mailto:rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com).

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## Living Well in Wabash County announces holiday season changes

Drive-up, grab-and-go senior lunches provided by area Five Agency on Aging and Community Services will be pick up only at Winchester Senior Center until Monday, Dec. 28. Delivery of frozen meals provided by Transit is suspended and will resume Tuesday, Dec. 29. Wabash County Public Transportation has now closed bus service and will also reopen Monday, Dec. 28, along with pantry service for those without transportation. All programs and services will be closed at 1 p.m. New Year's Eve, Thursday, Dec. 31, and all-day New Year's Day Friday, Jan. 1. Other than closing for holidays, Transit Dispatch – which can be reached by phone at 260-563-7536 – remains open as will Living Well Winchester Senior Center offices – which may be reached by phone at 260-563-4475. December senior supplemental food boxes will be pick-up only. To schedule a pantry appointment or to sign up for senior center remote activities and services, call 260-563-4475.

See PULSE, page A2

## Inside

Classified, A9 Obituaries, A3  
Comics, A10 Sports, A6  
Crossword, Viewpoint, A4  
A10



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# National Guard long-term care deployment extended

## ISDH reports 39th COVID-19 death in Wabash County on Wednesday

By ROB BURGESS  
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

On Wednesday, the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) reported the 39th COVID-19 death in Wabash County.

Though the ISDH's data reflects community spread of COVID-19 in Wabash

County remains elevated, it has edged slightly down since the week before.

However, the county's rating remains in the orange or second-highest category. The ISDH dashboard was updated with results as of 11:59 p.m. Monday, Dec. 21. The county metrics map is updated at noon Wednesdays and reflects data through the previous Sunday.

And as several Wabash County long-term care facilities continued to report a steady stream of infections and deaths, the Indiana National Guard's deployment

to those locations was extended.

### National Guard deployment extended

During a televised press conference Tuesday, Gov. Eric J. Holcomb announced that he will be extending the mission of the Indiana National Guard at long-term care facilities through the end of February.

In November, state officials announced more than 1,300 members of Indiana's National Guard were being deployed to the 133 hardest-hit long-term care centers to

assist with infection control practices like improved COVID-19 testing for facility residents and employees, according to the Associated Press. That support – meant, in part, to relieve health care staff – was then expanded to all 534 nursing homes in Indiana over the following three weeks, Adjutant General, Brig. Gen. Dale Lyles said.

"They've been a Godsend, quite frankly," said Holcomb, during a televised press conference Tuesday. "We hear from these long-term care centers saying, 'We don't want you to leave.'

We're really kind of hitting our groove right now. It's good teamwork. They're helping with screening and helping to do some of the clerical functions and so, so much more."

That deployment was originally set to expire at the end of December, but that date has now been moved back by two months.

"That's well into our vaccination process and protocol," said Holcomb.

For the past eight months, members of the Indiana National Guard have made

See EXTENDED, page A3

## HOLIDAY WINDOW DISPLAY WINNER



Provided photo

Kim Osborne, owner of Wabash Pizza King, stands outside her holiday window display. Pizza King is the winner of the People's Choice Holiday Window Contest in Downtown Wabash, according to Wabash Marketplace executive director. Their windows were hand-painted with a nostalgic snowman theme. Votes were collected online from Nov 25 to 29 at <https://www.wabashmarketplace.org/vote.html>.

## NMPL carries on Veteran's Tree tradition

Even as the main building is closed to the public, those who served are still honored

By ROB BURGESS  
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

Like many public facilities, the main building of the North Manchester Public Library (NMPL) has been closed to patrons for the past few weeks due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The effects of this can be seen in those idling in their vehicles, waiting for their curbside orders to be placed on the bench when they normally would be browsing the stacks inside.

It's also meant that an annual NMPL custom won't be able to be

seen up close by the community.

Near the checkout desk sits the Veteran's Tree, which is decorated with several colorful paper ornaments honoring locals and their relatives who served in the military.

NMPL adult department manager and marketing coordinator Jeanna Hann said they have tried to get the word out about the tree by posting it on their social media accounts, but it's not the same as in previous years.

"It's so sad because nobody's going to see it," said Hann.

However, that hasn't stopped those working inside from carrying on the tradition.

Names, dates and photos adorn each ornament, each representing a different local veteran being honored by the community.

See TRADITION, page A2



Photo by Rob Burgess / Plain Dealer

The Veteran's Tree is decorated with several colorful paper ornaments honoring locals and their relatives who served in the military.

## Wabash County's labor force shrinking

The area considered at full employment, but negative long-term trends remain

By ROB BURGESS  
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

When the Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD) released their November employment report Monday, the news seemed positive on its face. In Wabash County, unemployment was at 4 percent, which is technically considered full employment. But, a closer look at the numbers reveals some more alarming long-term figures.

"As we have been seeing in the summer and fall, the trend of the shrinking labor force continues in northeast Indiana," said

See LABOR, page A3

## Save Our Stages Act could benefit Honeywell

\$10B bipartisan bill part of latest COVID-19 relief package

By ROB BURGESS  
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

As congressional Democrats and Republicans in Washington, D.C. wrangle over the details of the latest COVID-19 relief bill, at least one part of the package is being hailed by both sides.

The Save Our Stages Act, or the SOS Act, was originally introduced into the Senate on July 22 by co-sponsors Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minnesota, and Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas.

The \$10 billion, the bipartisan bill now has 58 co-sponsors in the Senate and was approved earlier this week as part of the larger relief package by the

See STAGES, page A2

## Pay the Day reduced joiner fee available at the Wabash County YMCA

Those who take advantage of this can save up to \$74

### STAFF REPORT

Those looking to start the New Year on the right foot and jump start those wellness goals with the Wabash County YMCA can save up to \$74 off the joiner fee, ac-

cording to CEO Dean Gogolewski.

New members who join between Saturday, Dec. 26 and Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2021 will pay a \$1 joiner fee.

New members who join between Wednesday, Jan. 6 and Sunday, Jan. 31, 2021 will pay the joiner fee on the day they join.

"Join the YMCA family and enjoy member benefits such as group exercise class-

es, child watch services, priority registration for programs, unlimited access to the Wellness Center, indoor tennis and pickleball courts, access to the Honeywell Pool in the Summer, guest passes for family and friends, nationwide membership across the country where available, and much more," said Gogolewski.

For more information, call 260-563-9622.

### PULSE

From page A1

### ISP to increase overtime patrols during holidays

Troopers working from the Indiana State Police (ISP) Peru Post will be increasing overtime patrols during the Christmas and New Years' driving period. This is part of the Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over national enforcement mobilization that runs through Jan. 1, 2021. Officers will be searching for impaired drivers, whether it's alcohol or drugs. Officers will also be on the lookout for unbuckled motorists.

### Salamonie to hold Winter Forest Day Camp

Salamonie Lake has announced an outdoor day camp from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 4, 2021, to Friday, Jan. 8, 2021, at 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews. Children ages 7 to 13 are welcome. The early bird registration discount ends Monday, Dec. 21. Events scheduled during the day camp include a daily

hike, sit spots, games, shelter and fire building, small groups to prepare and present short presentations on nature topics. Participants will also meet education birds-of-prey ambassadors. The cost per child is \$60 and \$55 for each additional sibling. For more information and registration, call 260-468-2127. Limited space is available. For more information, visit dnr.IN.gov/uwits.

### Honeywell seeking artist entries for Clark Gallery 92 County Art Show

Honeywell Arts & Entertainment will be hosting its annual 92 County Art Show in the Honeywell Center Clark Gallery from Thursday, Jan. 7, 2021, to Monday, Feb. 15, 2021. Entries will be accepted from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, Jan. 4. The competition is open to artists of all ages living in any of the 92 Indiana counties.

For a list of complete guidelines and artist entry information, visit HoneywellArts.org/92-county. The exhibit will be available for public viewing from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and will be hosted

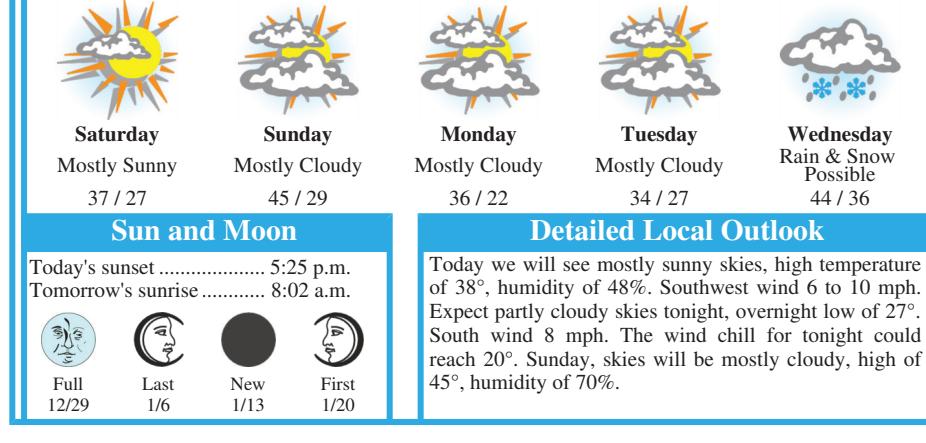
virtually via HoneywellArts.org and the Honeywell Center's Facebook and Instagram pages. For more information, visit <http://honeywellarts.org/exhibits>.

### Second Harvest to hold tailgate food distribution every other Wednesday

Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana has planned tailgate food distributions for 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2021, at Manchester Church of the Brethren, 1306 Beckley St., North Manchester; and 11 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2021, at Bachelor Creek Church of Christ, 2147 Indiana 15. For more information, visit [www.curehunger.org/classy.org/campaign/hunger-action-month/c299182](http://www.curehunger.org/classy.org/campaign/hunger-action-month/c299182) or <https://www.givepulse.com/group/203410>.

*Editor's note: If you have an upcoming event to submit, please send it by email to news@wabashplaindealer.com no later than five days before the event itself. Please use complete sentences, Associated Press style and Microsoft Word or PDF file formats.*

### 5-Day Weather Summary



### STAGES

From page A1

Senate.

This bill authorizes the Small Business Administration (SBA) to make grants to eligible live venue operators, producers, promoters or talent representatives to address the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on certain live venues.

These funds have the potential to make a huge impact in Wabash County, specifically for the Honeywell Foundation, which has been hit particularly hard by the pandemic.

"The Ford Theater and Eagles Theatre stages have

been dark since March," said public relations and marketing coordinator Morgan Ellis on Tuesday.

"We greatly miss hosting the variety of talented artists who would visit our community to provide an uplifting evening of entertainment. Our stages, and the events that happen on them, are woven into the social fabric of our community and we applaud the recognition that they are worthy of saving."

Specifically, the SBA may make an initial grant of up to \$12 million to an eligible operator, promoter, producer or talent representative; and a supplemental grant that is equal to 50 percent of the initial

grant. An initial grant must be used for costs incurred between March 1, 2020, and Dec. 31, 2020, but a supplemental grant may be used for expenses incurred through June 30, 2021.

Such grants shall be used for specified expenses such as payroll costs, rent, utilities and personal protective equipment.

"The Save Our Stages idea is great and I hope the Honeywell can utilize this," said Grow Wabash County CEO and president Keith Gillenwater on Wednesday.

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With the building closed, the NMPL has posted photos of the tree on their social media accounts.



Names, dates and photos adorn each ornament, each representing a different local veteran being honored by the community.

### TRADITION

From page A1

One says Homer Ousley Jr. served in the U.S. Army from 1964 to 1966.

Another indicates Rex Reahard served in the U.S. Navy during World War II.

Others only have names

and photos, like the ones that feature a smiling, uniformed man identified as Bruce Pottenger, U.S. Air Force Technical Sergeant Joe Garcia, Tad Lochner, Aaron Brown and Carl McShirley.

"We thank all our amazing veterans for serving," said Hann. "Your sacrifices

have not been forgotten," Hann said after being closed for Christmas Eve and Christmas, the NMPL curbside service will resume from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 28.

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## Wabash Plain Dealer

VOL. 162 NO. 183

99 W. Canal St., Wabash, Ind. 46992

### Circulation

- Customer Service  
260-563-2131

Telephone Hours:  
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

- Delivery: Your newspaper is delivered by the USPS and will arrive with your daily mail.

■ Missed your paper? We sincerely hope not, but if you did please contact your local post office. To verify that your account is active, call us at 260-563-2131.

■ Home delivery subscription rates: 13 weeks, \$59.50. EZ-Pay, monthly, \$18.65.

Other payment options available

by calling Subscriber Services at 260-563-2131.

POSTMASTER: Send address change to Wabash Plain Dealer, 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

■ There will be a \$10 early termination fee to cancel an existing subscription prior to expiration date.

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Fax: 260-563-0816

USPS 663-940

Wabash Plain Dealer  
established September 1858

Published Wednesdays and Saturdays (except on postal holidays) by Paxton Media Group, by the Wabash Plain Dealer, 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992. Periodical postage paid at Wabash, Ind.

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# Obituaries

## Federal report: Indiana GDP saw significant 3rd-quarter rise

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Indiana's gross domestic product rose significantly in the third quarter as consumers and businesses adapted to the coronavirus pandemic, but the state's economy has yet to regain the ground it lost to virus-related business disruptions, a federal report shows.

Wednesday's report from the U.S. Commerce Department shows that Indiana's real gross domestic product rose at a seasonally adjusted annualized rate of 43.3 percent

from July through September. That's up from negative 33 percent in the second quarter.

The increase was driven in part by durable goods manufacturing, up nearly 10 percent, and nondurable goods manufacturing, up nearly 5 percent, according to the report from the agency's Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Indiana's real GDP rose to \$379 billion in the third quarter, up from \$344 billion in the second quarter, the report shows.

But a closer look at the data reveals that Indiana has yet to regain all of the economic ground it lost to the pandemic's business disruptions, The Indianapolis Star reported.

"The numbers are good for the third quarter, but they don't get it back to where we were this time last year," said Michael Hicks, director of Ball State's Center for Business and Economic Research.

He said Indiana remains in the throes of a major depression, and in terms of declining

GDP, 2020 is one of the very worst years in state history. Hicks said the pandemic has resulted in a splintered economic recovery where higher-earning workers are faring better than workers at the middle and lower ends of the labor market.

He anticipates that Indiana could likely experience another decline in GDP in the fourth quarter due to the weakening economy, permanent job losses and under-employed workers.

### EXTENDED

From page A1

their presence felt in Wabash County. Local deployments in response to the COVID-19 pandemic have included long-term care facilities, food bank tailgate distributions, and, more recently, free testing sites.

Last month, Peabody Retirement Community executive director Rod Craft said they were one of the communities receiving assistance. Craft said three Indiana National Guard soldiers were assisting them with entering over 900 test results weekly at their facility, as well as screening employees and guests before entering the building.

#### Holcomb signs executive order

On Wednesday, Gov. Eric Holcomb signed Executive Order 20-51, which extended the temporary licensing of healthcare workers for 90 days, allowing individuals who are not currently licensed to practice in Indiana to have a temporary license.

"This order applies to retired healthcare professionals, certain healthcare students and out-of-state healthcare professionals," said press secretary Rachel Hoffmeyer.

Hoffmeyer said the order also allows properly trained individuals, such as certain paramedics and EMTs and members of the National Guard, to administer the COVID-19 vaccine. Medical assistants can also administer the vaccine under the supervision of a physician, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse or registered nurse.

Hoffmeyer said in response to the high volume of unemployment claims, the order continues the suspension of certain requirements to expedite the hiring and training of temporary workers to more quickly resolve unemployment issues.

#### Professionals who are granted a temporary license to provide healthcare services in the state in response to this public health emergency must register with the Professional Licensing Agency via their website at [www.in.gov/pla](http://www.in.gov/pla).

#### Testing continues at Parkview Wabash

OptumServe will administer free COVID-19 testing from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays at Parkview Wabash Hospital "on an on-going basis." Testing will take place at 8 John Kissinger Drive in the first-floor conference room of the Medical Office Building (MOB) adjoining Parkview Wabash Hospital. Testing site patrons should not use the MOB entrance or enter through the hospital, but instead, enter and exit through the designated entrance between the two buildings. Signage will mark the appropriate entrance, which is within a few steps of the conference room and testing site.

Residents will have to register to schedule an appointment through the Optum/LHI website by visiting <https://lhi.care/covidtesting> or by calling 888-634-1116.

#### Long-term care facilities

The ISDH's long-term care facilities dashboard was updated at noon Wednesday, Dec. 23 with results as of Wednesday, Dec. 16. New positive cases and deaths have occurred over a range of dates but were reported to the ISDH seven days before the last dashboard update.

In Wabash County, only Bickford of Wabash reported no cases.

Otherwise, during the latest update, in Wabash County:

■ Timbertcrest Senior Living Community in North Manchester reported seven total resident positive cases, fewer than five total resident

deaths and 34 staff positive cases.

■ Peabody Retirement Community in North Manchester reported fewer than five new resident deaths, 52 total resident positive cases, eight total resident deaths and 111 staff positive cases.

■ Wellbrooke of Wabash reported nine new resident positive cases, five new resident deaths, 25 total resident positive cases, eight total resident deaths and 22 staff positive cases.

■ Autumn Ridge Rehabilitation Centre reported 19 total resident positive cases, fewer than five total resident deaths and 14 staff positive cases.

■ Vernon Health and Rehabilitation reported fewer than five new resident positive cases, 34 total resident positive cases, fewer than five total resident deaths and 25 staff positive cases.

■ Rolling Meadows Health Care Center in LaFontaine reported fewer than five new resident positive cases, fewer than five new resident deaths, 55 total resident positive cases, 12 total resident deaths and 15 staff positive cases.

■ Miller's Merry Manor – Wabash East reported fewer than five new resident positive cases, seven total resident positive cases and 17 staff positive cases.

■ Miller's Merry Manor – Wabash West reported fewer than five total resident positive cases and nine staff positive cases.

#### Local figures

On Wednesday, the ISDH reported 15 new local positive COVID-19 cases, bringing Wabash County's total to 2,480, with 11,762 tests. The local seven-day positivity rating for all tests was 11.3 percent. The local seven-day positivity rating for unique individuals was 23.6 percent.

On Thursday, the ISDH reported 23 new local positive COVID-19 cases, bringing Wabash County's total to 2,503, with 11,829 tests.

The local seven-day positivity rating for all tests was 12.4 percent. The local seven-day positivity rating for unique individuals was 25 percent.

#### Statewide figures

On Thursday, the ISDH announced that 6,288 additional Hoosiers have been diagnosed with COVID-19 through testing at state and private laboratories. That brings to 482,734 the number of Indiana residents now known to have had the novel coronavirus following corrections to the previous day's dashboard.

A total of 7,391 Hoosiers are confirmed to have died from COVID-19, an increase of 85 from the previous day. Another 339 probable deaths have been reported based on clinical diagnoses in patients for whom no positive test is on record. Deaths are reported based on when data are received by the state and occur over multiple days.

To date, 2,572,545 unique individuals have been tested in Indiana, up from 2,556,493 on Wednesday. A total of 5,431,146 tests, including repeat tests for unique individuals, have been reported to the ISDH since Feb. 26.

In addition to the Wabash site, the ISDH will offer free COVID-19 testing from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday at the following locations:

■ Knox Community Center, 55 E. Lake St., Knox

■ Washington County Fairgrounds, 118 N. Fair St., Salem

■ Westport Community Building, 205 W. Main St., Westport

■ Whitley County 4-H Center, 680 W. Squawbuck Road, Columbia City

To find other testing sites around the state, visit [www.coronavirus.in.gov](http://www.coronavirus.in.gov) and click on the COVID-19 testing information link.

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while there are still many job openings in northeast Indiana, businesses are finding it increasingly hard to find workers."

On Wednesday, Grow Wabash County CEO and president Keith Gillenwater said the local unemployment level of 4 percent wasn't "a terrible concern" as "there is always a section of the total labor force of folks that would be considered unemployable."

"They have issues that affect their attendance, behavior issues, or others," he said.

Gillenwater said he shared the concerns about the shrinking labor force and increasing retirements locally.

"We know we have an aging community, higher than average in Wabash County," he said. "The idea of COVID effect, whether it is fatigue, having to take an extended leave to care for an ill parent or child out of school, etc."

Gillenwater said historically coming out of a recession, labor force shrinkage and a longer recovery were to be expected. However, he said this year has been particularly difficult.

"It all works in tandem and each and every initiative cannot exist in a vacuum and be successful," he said.

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"Whether it was official or not we hit a recession earlier this year when COVID was hitting workforces and we were trying to figure out what the definition of an essential or non-essential worker was," he said.

Gillenwater said beyond the impacts of the pandemic itself, there was also "a generational shift in attitudes about work that play into this as well."

"A traditional, 40-hour workweek outside of the house is still prevalent but factors like the rising gig-economy, contract workforce and work-sharing are also contributing to this decline," he said.

Gillenwater said these changes underscored the importance of the Imagine One 85 initiative to reverse the local declining population, the housing initiatives to provide modern and desirable housing to attract people and the livability initiatives.

"It all works in tandem and each and every initiative cannot exist in a vacuum and be successful," he said.

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### LABOR

From page A1

Purdue University Fort Wayne Community Research Institute (CRI) director Rachel Blakeman on Monday. "While counties had fewer unemployed workers from October to November, most also had fewer employed workers."

Blakeman said using year-over-year numbers, the negative trend on all numbers, including employed workers, workers seeking employment and the unemployment rate, was "more dramatic."

"Although the 'full employment' metric of below 5 percent unemployment is true of all but Allen County, which was at 5 percent last month, the shrinking labor force shows the enduring economic effects of the pandemic," said Blakeman. "There are no particular events in November, unlike the shutdown orders or students returning to school, that CRI can identify that would drive down the labor force so uniformly other than pandemic fatigue of workers."

Blakeman said they anticipated they were seeing the effects of COVID-19

on the job market, including "parents who left the workforce because of unpredictable school schedules, workers who have given up looking for employment either out of concern for exposure to the virus or jobs not available in their particular industry and older workers who accelerated their retirement schedule."

"Until the vaccine is in wide distribution and adopted by a significant share of the public, we can expect to see these shaky numbers into the first or second quarter of 2021," said Blakeman.

Northeast Indiana Works communications director Rick Farrant said the shrinking labor force was one of the "warning signs on the horizon."

"Many businesses are hanging on by a thread and resiliency is waning in some sectors. In the last few months, we've seen at least four manufacturers in northeast Indiana announcing closures, leaving hundreds of workers out of jobs. That does not include the impact the pandemic has had on businesses in the retail and food and accommodation sectors," said Farrant. "Moreover,

while there are still many job openings in northeast Indiana, businesses are finding it increasingly hard to find workers."

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### Suzanne Smith

Jan. 18, 1952 - Dec. 23, 2020

Suzanne Smith, 68, of Wabash, passed away December 23, 2020.

Suzanne is survived by one son, Philip Chris (Rachal) Smith, of Warsaw; one daughter, Noelle (William) Hunter, of Wabash; three granddaughters, Bailey Good, of North Carolina, Maddison Hunter and Makenna Hunter, both of Wabash; two brothers, Da-

vid Wingate, of Oklahoma and Matthew Myers, of Austin, Texas; and three sisters, Cheryl Saunders, of Wabash, Melissa (Brian) Middleton, of Wabash and Johnna (Darl) Fox, of Austin, Texas. She was preceded in death by one sister.

A private celebration of life service will be held at a later date at Church of Christ at Treathy.

### Leonard Doyle Davidson

Funeral services for Leonard Doyle Davidson, 69, of Lagro, will be 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, December 29, 2020 at Grandstaff-Hentgen

Funeral Service, Wabash. Friends may call 5:00 - 8:00 p.m., Monday. Burial in Memorial Lawns Cemetery, Wabash.

### David Eugene Trisler

March 8, 1967 - Dec. 7, 2020

David Eugene Trisler, Jr., 53 of Indianapolis, formerly of Logansport and Wabash, passed away unexpectedly Monday, December 7, 2020, in Lakeview Manor, Indianapolis.

Born March 8, 1967, in Wabash County, he was the son of David Eugene Sr. and Brenda Joyce (Lengel) Trisler. His father, Dave, survives in Wabash.

David was a 1985 graduate of Huntington North High School. He had worked at the Peak Community workshop in Logansport.

Surviving with his father are his sister, Diana (Jeremy) Tucker, Wabash; his brother, Jim (Jodi) Trisler, LaFontaine; three nephews, Hunter Tucker, J.D. Trisler, and Jordan Trisler; his aunt, Pamela Lengel, Wabash; and his guardian, Cinda Milan, Logansport.

He was preceded in death by his mother and grandparents.

A Celebration of Life is planned for a later date. Arrangements have been entrusted to Fisher Funeral Chapel & Cremation Services.

You may share memories, photos and condolences on David's Tribute Wall at [www.fisherfuneralchapel.com](http://www.fisherfuneralchapel.com)

### John Wallace Whiting

April 11, 1927 - Dec. 21, 2020

John Wallace Whiting, 93, of North Manchester, Indiana, passed away December 21, 2020 at Peabody Healthcare Center, North Manchester, Indiana.

# Opinion

## SPEAK UP

How to contact  
your legislators:

**U.S. Sen. Todd Young,  
R-Ind.**  
B33 Russell Senate  
Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
1-202-224-5623  
<http://young.senate.gov/contact>

**U.S. Sen. Mike Braun,  
R-Ind.**  
B85 Russell Senate  
Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
202-224-4814  
<http://braun.senate.gov/>

**U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski,  
R-District 2**  
419 Cannon House  
Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
202-225-3915

**State Sen. Andy Zay,  
R-District 17**  
Indiana Senate  
200 W. Washington St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
1-800-382-9467  
[Senator.Zay@iga.in.gov](mailto:Senator.Zay@iga.in.gov)

**State Rep. David Wolkins,  
R-District 18**  
Indiana House  
200 W. Washington St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
1-800-382-9841  
[h18@in.gov](mailto:h18@in.gov)

To email any  
Indiana lawmaker,  
go to this website:  
[www.in.gov/cgi-bin/legislative/contact/contact.pl](http://www.in.gov/cgi-bin/legislative/contact/contact.pl)

## LETTERS GUIDELINES

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the newspaper office, 99 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to news@wabashplaindealer.com with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.



## DAILY SCRIPTURE

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.

**1 John 4:9**

## The United States must hit back, hard, after a cyberattack by Russia

**I**t also could be somebody sitting on their bed that weighs 400 pounds," said Donald Trump in 2016 about the hack of the Democratic National Committee, undermining the then-confirmed fact that it was Russian intelligence operatives.

The sequel is more cringe-inducing than the original. Even as the rest of the nation and his own secretary of state sound the alarm about a much more extensive series of breaches and point the finger at Russia, Trump downplays them and suggests Vladimir Putin's regime may be blameless.

"The Cyber Hack is far greater in the Fake News Media than in actuality," tweeted the defector-in-chief, baselessly as usual. "I have been fully briefed and everything is well under control. Russia, Russia, Russia is the priority chant when anything happens because Lamestream is, for

mostly financial reasons, petrified of discussing the possibility that it may be China (it may!)."

That's Trump: His hair is on fire about wholly manufactured conspiracy theories, while he waves away the grave risk of severe damage done by serious adversaries.

The intrusion at issue could endanger American security for years to come. The federal government's lead cybersecurity agency says that the breach "poses a grave risk to the federal government." The Defense and Homeland Security Departments were hit. So was the Energy Department, overseer of the nation's nuclear infrastructure. And the Treasury and Commerce Departments. And state and local governments. And Fortune 500 companies.

It began when users downloaded an update for network-monitoring software by a company called Solar-

Winds; it was infected with Russian malware. That blew a security hole that let hackers working for the Russian foreign intelligence waltz right in and grab who knows what.

Step one is determining the extent of the damage done, while gathering forensic evidence to definitively nail the perpetrators. That's no simple task, as the scale and duration of the invasion could allow a maddening web of crimes, including mass falsification of information.

Step two is making clear that an intrusion so sweeping will not go unpunished, lest America winds up inviting brazen attacks not only from Russia but from China, North Korea, Iran and others.

Step three is striking back with intensity – a job that, given Trump's hesitancy, will likely fall to Joe Biden.

*This editorial was first published in The New York Daily News.*

## Indiana's hospital monopolies worse than California

Last Sunday night I sat in front of the TV a few extra minutes basking in the Colts victory. Much to my delight, the venerable "60 Minutes" teaser announced they'd profile the civil anti-trust case of Sutter Health in Sacramento California. This reporting should be interesting to Hoosiers and their elected leaders. Here's why.

Since the Affordable Care Act was passed, healthcare systems in the United States have been rapidly acquiring independent hospitals. They have also bought up physician practices and specialty care clinics. This potentially limits patient choice of hospitals and monopolizes the stream of patients flowing into their facilities. Hospitals around the country have also structured contracts that force bundles of services on employers.

Anyone who had a good American history course in high school might remember that these are textbook examples of those business practices that were prohibited by Gilded Age Anti-Trust laws. The landmark case was U.S. v. Standard Oil, which set the stage for modern anti-trust. Today, you can replace "oil company" with "hospital system," "independent oil producer" with "physician office" and a tuxedoed John D. Rockefeller with a smiling CEO/physician in a lab coat, and you have much of today's healthcare markets. It is a problem ripe for litigation.

Almost one year ago, Sutter Health was sued by the State of California for anti-trust violations like those listed above. Sutter settled the case an hour or so before stepping foot into the courtroom. They agreed to pay \$575 million to the State of California, submit to a special pricing oversight for the next ten years and end their anti-trust practices. They got off lightly.

What should surprise and anger Hoosiers is that much of Indiana suffers healthcare markets that are more monopolized market areas than Sacramento California. In fact, close to one-half of Indiana's healthcare markets as defined by the Affordable Care Act are more monopolized than the one in which California brought suit against Sutter Health. There are a lot more issues that should trouble us.

California residents pay 16.2 percent of their incomes for healthcare, while Hoosiers pay 20.8 percent. Since 2000, California residents saw their cost share of health spending grow by only about half the rate that of Indiana families. Today Indiana's hospital monopolies are financially damaging to Indiana's economy and Hoosier families.

The "60 Minutes" story also highlighted the vast cost differences that exist between hospitals in the highly monopolized and more competitive regions of California. Their example was on a childbirth, which is twice as expensive in the Sutter Health region as in a nearby city. That prompted me to check the data for Indiana.

I chose my community because I live near a hospital in one of the most monopolized healthcare markets in the United States. As it turns out, a normal delivery at my local hospital in Muncie was priced at \$19,488. The closest hospitals outside this healthcare market was in Anderson. The prices for the same procedure were \$7,386. The closest hospital inside the same healthcare market charged \$21,305 for the same procedure, and of course that was part of the same not-for-profit healthcare company.

Now, just to be clear, these aren't my data. The hospital pricing data are those submitted by these hospitals to the federal government. Nor are the monopolization data sets mine; they come from a study funded by the IHA to discredit my work. Oddly enough, the IHA-funded study actually reported levels of monopolization that are above the U.S. Department of Justice threshold to trigger anti-trust intervention in every single Indiana healthcare market. It is also worth noting that in 2018 and 2019 Sutter Health was less profitable than Indiana's top four largest hospital chains. As a painful reminder, all of these hospital chains are not-for-profit firms.

Of course, the defenders of hospital monopolies will argue that the price differences have real causes. They'll say operating costs are different, or they'll sponsor some public health researcher to claim there are vast differences between the behavioral health characteristics in these two places. They will claim that these factors account for a normal delivery in Muncie to be a bit more than twice the cost of Anderson. After all, John D. Rockefeller made the same arguments.

Now, I'm sure this column will prompt another round of op-ed pieces by monopoly apologists complaining about my biases and general ignorance of economics. Again, that is right out of John D. Rockefeller's playbook, and if you are going to run a successful monopoly, he provided a superb example.

Of course, I should remain silent about the upcoming attacks and whining letters to my employer. After all, I'm unlikely to be a good judge of my own shortcomings. But, I will say this much in defense of the dozens of hospital monopoly studies. When it comes to hospital pricing and profits, you may believe either what they tell you in newspapers, or what they tell the IRS and other federal agencies; you cannot believe both.

Oh, and there's one more interesting twist on the Sutter Health case and its implication for hospital monopolies around the country. California's attorney general, Xavier Becerra, who brought suit against Sutter Health, has been nominated to head the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. I am so looking forward to 2021.

**Michael J. Hicks, PhD**, is the director of the Center for Business and Economic Research and the George and Frances Ball distinguished professor of economics in the Miller College of Business at Ball State University. Hicks earned doctoral and master's degrees in economics from the University of Tennessee and a bachelor's degree in economics from Virginia Military Institute. He has authored two books and more than 60 scholarly works focusing on state and local public policy, including tax and expenditure policy and the impact of Walmart on local economies.



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Make quitting smoking a priority for the new year

Quit plans may include: Combine quit smoking strategies to keep you focused, confident, and motivated to quit.

Help identify challenges you will face as you quit and ways to overcome them.

Can improve your chances of quitting smoking for good.

A trained quit coach at 800-Quit-Now can help with a quit plan.

SmokeFree.gov includes the following steps for having a successful quit plan:

Pick a quit date.

Let loved ones know you are quitting.

Remove reminders of smoking.

Identify your reasons to

quit smoking.

Identify your smoking triggers.

Develop coping strategies.

Have places you can turn to for immediate help. The Wabash County Tobacco Free Coalition is a place that can assist you with help to be successful at quitting. For more information, call 260-274-2920 or email [tobacco.freewabash@hotmail.com](mailto:tobacco.freewabash@hotmail.com).

Set up rewards for Quit Milestones.

Free, confidential help is available online at [QuitNow-Indiana.com](http://QuitNow-Indiana.com).

Make 2021 your best year yet by deciding to quit.

**Dan Gray**

Director, Wabash County Tobacco Free Coalition

## HISTORY

Today is Saturday, Dec. 26, the 361st day of 2020. There are five days left in the year.

### Highlight in history:

On Dec. 26, 2004, more than 230,000 people, mostly in southern Asia, were killed by a 100-foot-high tsunami triggered by a 9.1-magnitude earthquake beneath the Indian Ocean.

### On this date:

In 1776, British forces suffered a major defeat in the Battle of Trenton during the Revolutionary War.

In 1799, former President George Washington was eulogized by Col. Henry Lee as "first in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

In 1908, Jack Johnson became the first African-American boxer to win the world heavyweight championship as he defeated Canadian Tommy Burns in Sydney, Australia.

In 1910, the London Palladium, Britain's famous variety theater, first opened.

In 1917, during World War I, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation authorizing the government to take over operation of the nation's railroads.

In 1941, during World War II, Winston Churchill became the

first British prime minister to address a joint meeting of the U.S. Congress.

In 1980, Iranian television footage was broadcast in the United States, showing a dozen of the American hostages sending messages to their families.

In 1985, Ford Motor Company began selling its Taurus and Sable sedans and station wagons.

In 1994, French commandos stormed a hijacked Air France jetliner on the ground in Marseille, killing four Algerian hijackers and freeing 170 hostages.

In 1996, six-year-old beauty queen JonBenet Ramsey was found beaten and strangled in the basement of her family's home in Boulder, Colorado. (To date, the slaying remains unsolved.)

In 2003, an earthquake struck the historic Iranian city of Bam, killing at least 26,000 people. Three snowboarders were killed in an avalanche in Provo Canyon, Utah.

In 2006, former President Gerald R. Ford died in Rancho Mirage, California, at age 93.

**Ten years ago:** A powerful East Coast blizzard stranded thousands of travelers and dumped more than a foot of

snow in some areas. Salvador Jorge Blanco, 84, a former president of the Dominican Republic, died in Santo Domingo. Soul singer-songwriter Teena Marie, 54, died in Pasadena, California.

**Five years ago:** A new onslaught of tornadoes began erupting in the South; twisters ended up hitting parts of Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Chicago police killed 19-year-old Quintonio LeGrier, a college student who an officer said was coming at him with a bat, and 55-year-old Bettie Jones, a neighbor who police said was shot accidentally.

Basketball player Stephen Curry was named The Associated Press 2015 Male Athlete of the Year.

**Today's Birthdays:** Rhythm-and-blues singer Abdul "Duke" Fakir (The Four Tops) is 85. Record producer (and convicted murderer) Phil Spector is 81.

"America's Most Wanted" host John Walsh is 75. Country musician Bob Carpenter (The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band) is 74. Funk musician George Porter Jr. (The Meters) is 73. Baseball Hall of Fame catcher Carlton Fisk is 73. Retired MLB All-Star Chris Chambliss is 72. Baseball Hall of Famer Ozzie Smith is 66.



## DAILY SCRIPTURE

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.

**1 John 4:9**

# Lifestyles

## Hygge meatballs

**I**t's winter, nearly the new year, and uncertain times. With that convergence, we could all do with some hygge right now. You might have heard about hygge, a Danish word that's made a splash beyond its Nordic borders. It's an appealing term, albeit linguistically

challenging (pronounced WHO-gheh). The meaning, however, is hardly challenging.

Hygge is an intrinsic notion of comfort, warmth and coziness

that transcends borders and language. It's not so much an object as it is a state of being. Hygge and its adjective, hyggelig, can refer to a gathering, a meal, a conversation, or simply a collective and communal moment, enhanced by good will and simple yet pleasurable things, such as flickering candles, fleecy blankets, a cup of tea, an uplifting conversation or delicious homemade food. Hygge is non-denominational, non-judgmental, undemanding and egalitarian. No wonder it's so popular. We all need a dose of it.

Which brings me to meatballs.

If there is any food group that evokes intergenerational and international comfort, it's meatballs. Not only do they simply taste great, meatballs are in nearly every cuisine and enjoyed by children and adults alike. Your mother likely made meatballs, and so did her mother. They are the epitome of comfort food, burrowed into our culinary DNA, establishing a baseline that transcends economy, class and the ages.

And, as with most comfort food, meatballs are an efficient means to stretch inexpensive cuts of meat by jumbling the ingredients

**Spiced Meatball Lettuce Wraps With Cranberry and Dill**

**Active Time: 45 minutes Total Time: 45 minutes, plus 1 hour chilling time Yield: Makes 24 to 28 meatballs**

**Compote:**

2 cups fresh or frozen cranberries

1/2 cup sugar

Pinch of salt

**Meatballs:**

1 tablespoon unsalted butter

1 small yellow onion, finely chopped, about 1/2 cup

3 garlic cloves, minced

1 pound ground beef

1 pound ground pork

1 large egg, lightly beaten



Photo by Lynda Balslev for TasteFood

1/2 cup breadcrumbs, such as panko

1/2 cup fresh parsley leaves, finely chopped

1/3 cup fresh dill, chopped, plus extra for garnish

2 teaspoons salt

1 teaspoon dried thyme

1 1/2 teaspoons freshly ground black pepper, plus more for garnish

Olive oil for pan-frying

Butter lettuce or little gem lettuce leaves

Sour cream or whole-milk European-style plain yogurt

**Prepare the compote:**

Combine all of the compote ingredients in a medium saucepan over medium heat. Cook, stirring to dissolve the sugar. Reduce the heat to medium-low and simmer until the berries break down and the compote thickens, about 15 minutes. Remove from the heat, discard the rosemary sprig and cool.

**Prepare the meatballs:**

Melt the butter in a small saucepan. Add the onion

and garlic and sauté until the onion is soft, about 4 minutes. Transfer to a large bowl and cool slightly, then add the remaining ingredients. Gently mix to uniformly combine without overmixing. Using your hands, form the meat in 1-to-1 1/2-inch meatballs. Arrange on a plate and refrigerate for 1 hour.

Heat 2 tablespoons oil in a skillet over medium heat. Add the meatballs in batches without overcrowding. Cook until browned on both sides and thoroughly cooked through, 8 to 10 minutes. Transfer to a plate lined with paper towels to drain and repeat with the remaining meatballs. Keep warm.

To serve, place 1 to 2 meatballs in the center of a lettuce leaf. Top with a small dollop of compote and sour cream. Garnish with additional black pepper and dill sprigs. Roll up and eat.

## Your next stimulus check may not be in the mail until Jan. 15

**T**he \$900 billion pandemic relief bill Congress passed Monday night provides a second stimulus payment of up to \$600 to individuals earning \$75,000 or less and up to \$1,200 for couples filing jointly earning \$150,000 or less. Families are also eligible for \$600 per dependent child under 17.

But, based on glitches from the last distribution of stimulus payments, I need to manage your expectations – and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin

should have done that, too.

"People are going to begin seeing this money next week," Mnuchin said during a CNBC interview Monday.

This sets up the IRS for a herculean task.

The already-beleaguered agency is still trying to address backlogs from coronavirus shutdowns that sent its staff home. There are 2019 tax tax returns and refunds to process from the delayed 2020 tax season, which shifted its deadline to July 15 this year.

Dale Raby, 64, of Rockland, Wisconsin, is caring for his severely autistic 24-year-old son. He received his \$1,200 stimulus payment under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, or CARES Act, which passed in March, but he's still waiting on a refund from his 2019 federal return, which he said he filed elec-

tronically in February. "It's very frustrating," he said. "The IRS is sitting on more than \$4,000 of money I could really use about now. You call and wait for hours, and when you finally get somebody, they say, 'We are way behind.'"

Payments for this second round of stimulus aid are based on people's 2019 return.

Under the CARES Act, the Treasury Department has until Dec. 31 to finish issuing the first economic-impact payments.

It's possible people will see the second stimulus payment by direct deposit by year's end, but the reality is many others probably won't get any money before mid-January or even later next year.

This all has to happen, I might add, while the IRS is preparing for the 2021 tax season, which is already going to be a hot mess because of the pandemic.

The relief bill says the Treasury Department has until Jan. 15 to get out the \$600 payments. If payments can't be direct-deposited or mailed by then, people will have to wait to get their money when they file their 2020 tax return next year. Even those who file just as the tax season opens may not see a payment until February. If you file your return electronically and elect direct deposit, it can still take about three weeks to get a refund.

The first stimulus rollout had some major glitches. Deceased people got checks. Foreign nationals received

stimulus money even though they were not living or working in the United States. People in prison who received stimulus payments were told to send the money back to the IRS. Then a lawsuit filed against the IRS and Treasury Department reversed that policy decision, so payments to incarcerated individuals had to be reissued. By the way, the most recent bill does not exclude prison inmates from receiving stimulus payments.

The IRS lost stimulus payment information for hundreds of thousands of low-income Americans. Parents receiving certain government benefits – such as Supplemental Security Income – didn't get the \$500 payments for their eligible children, prompting another lawsuit. As a result, the IRS set and extended and then pushed out again deadlines for these parents and others to get their stimulus money.

The Treasury Department mailed prepaid debit cards to millions of Americans. But many people thought the cards were a scam and threw them away, prompting the department to send a letter that the debit card was in fact not fake.

This brings me to the optimistic proclamation from Mnuchin that the \$600 payments would go out as soon as next week.

The IRS has worked out a lot of the glitches troubling the first stimulus distribution, said Garrett Watson, a senior policy analyst at the Tax Foundation, which has a good summary of the new

aid package.

"Yet, I think it's always good to set reasonable expectations," Watson said. "It's better to underpromise and overdeliver when it comes to delivering these payments."

The IRS could not address many questions, because the legislation had not been signed into law by President Donald Trump – who on Tuesday night demanded larger stimulus checks in the bill and criticized it for "wasteful spending." At this point, it's best to check [irs.gov](http://irs.gov) for updates. Search for "Economic Impact Payment Information Center."

My holiday hope is that the IRS and Treasury Department post answers to the questions I know people will have, as soon as possible.

The administration was too slow to do this after the passage of the CARES Act. The need is as great, if not greater, this time around to provide people struggling to make ends meet a realistic time frame for when they may see the second stimulus payment.

Readers can write to Michelle Singletary c/o The Washington Post, 1301 K St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20071. Her email address is [michelle.singletary@washpost.com](mailto:michelle.singletary@washpost.com). Follow her on Twitter (@SingletaryM) or Facebook ([www.facebook.com/MichelleSingletary](https://www.facebook.com/MichelleSingletary)). Comments and questions are welcome, but due to the volume of mail, personal responses may not be possible. Please also note comments or questions may be used in a future column, with the writer's name, unless a specific request to do otherwise is indicated.

**By MARY ESCH**

Associated Press

When the pandemic lockdown began in March, dog therapy was suspended along with most other activities at the nursing home.

"I decided we needed to

re-energize the pet visiting program since there's no outside visitation allowed," said Daniel Reingold, founder of the pet therapy program and president and CEO of RiverSpring Health, nonprofit operator of 103-year-old Hebrew Home. "They've been on the floors bringing happiness and unconditional love to residents and staff alike."

The dogs belong to staff members who bring them to work every day. But the program doesn't allow just any dog.

"It has to be a combination of the right owner, right dog and right temperament," said Reingold, whose own rescue dog, Kida, is one of the new recruits. "The dogs have to be assessed, follow basic commands and be able to cope with wheelchairs, elevators, medication carts and all the other things they'll encounter on a floor."

Cats are also used in the pet therapy program – but only robotic ones. Hebrew Home has numerous life-like animatronic cats that purr and meow as residents hold them in their laps and stroke their fur. "The cats are especially soothing to people with dementia," said Catherine Farrell, director of therapeutic activities, primary dog handler and owner of Marley.

## Dogs ease pandemic isolation for nursing home residents

**Michelle Singletary**



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# Sports

A6 December 26-27, 2020

[WabashPlainDealer.com](http://WabashPlainDealer.com)

## SCOREBOARD

### HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

#### Indiana High School Basketball Poll

##### Class 4A

W-L Pts Prv

1. Lawrence North (8) 4-0 230 1

2. Carmel (3) 6-0 220 2

3. Homestead (1) 7-0 194 3

4. Lafayette Jeff 6-0 154 5

5. Westfield 5-0 127 7

6. Indianapolis Cathedral 5-1 121 6

7. Indianapolis Attucks 8-1 110 4

8. S. Bend Adams 5-0 100 9

9. Zionsville 5-2 39 NR

10. S. Bend Riley 5-1 27 NR

(tie) Columbus North 5-1 27 NR

Others receiving votes: Bloomington North

19. Gary West 16. Plainfield 15. Warren

Central 8. Michigan City 8. Munster 7. New

Albany 6. Fishers 6. Greenwood 6

Class 3A

W-L Pts Prv

1. Heritage Hills (8) 5-0 222 1

2. Hammond (3) 3-1 178 4

3. Silver Creek (1) 4-2 177 3

4. Ev. Bosse 2-0 176 2

5. Greensburg 3-0 127 5

6. Mishawaka Marian 4-1 114 7

7. Sullivan 3-0 89 10

8. S. Bend St. Joseph's 3-2 86 6

9. Danville 0-0 80 8

10. Delta 4-0 75 9

Others receiving votes: Leo 57. Beech

Grove 23. Greencastle 16. Tri-West 14. N.

Harrison 6

Class 2A

W-L Pts Prv

1. Ft. Wayne Blackhawk (12) 5-0 240 1

2. Linton-Stockton 6-0 208 2

3. Blackford 5-0 190 3

4. S. Spencer 7-0 171 4

5. Shenandoah 5-1 119 5

6. Westview 4-1 103 7

7. Indianapolis Covenant Christian 4-0 102 6

8. Parke Heritage 5-1 90 8

9. Central Noble 5-1 64 10

10. Andrean 4-1 60 NR

Others receiving votes: Ev. Mater De 30.

Southwestern (Jefferson) 20. Madison-Grant

14. S. Ripley 13. Prairie Hts. 10. Rossview 6

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

2020-21 Bowl Glance

Canceled

Bahamas Bowl

Birmingham Bowl

Celebration Bowl

Fenway Bowl

Frisco Bowl

Gasparilla Bowl

Guaranteed Rate Bowl

Hawaii Bowl

Holiday Bowl

Independence Bowl

LA Bowl

Las Vegas Bowl

Military Bowl

Pinstripe Bowl

Quick Lane Bowl

Redbox Bowl

Sun Bowl

Monday, Dec. 21

Myrtle Beach Bowl

Conway, S.C.

Appalachian St. 56, North Texas 28

Tuesday, Dec. 22

Famous Idaho Potato Bowl

Boise

Nevada 38, Tulane 27

Boca Raton (Fla.) Bowl

No. 13 BYU 49, UCF 23

Wednesday, Dec. 23

New Orleans Bowl

Georgia Southern 38, Louisiana Tech 3

Montgomery (Ala.) Bowl

Memphis 25, Florida Atlantic 10

Thursday, Dec. 24

New Mexico Bowl

Frisco, Texas

Hawaii 28, Houston 14

Friday, Dec. 25

Camellia Bowl

Montgomery, Ala.

Buffalo vs. Marshall

Saturday, Dec. 26

Cure Bowl

Orlando, Fla.

No. 9 Coastal Carolina vs. No. 23 Liberty

7:30 p.m., (ESPN)

SERVPRO First Responder Bowl

Dallas

No. 16 Louisiana vs. UTSA 3:30 p.m. (ABC)

LendingTree Bowl

Mobile, Ala.

W. Kentucky vs. Georgia St. 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Tuesday, Dec. 29

Cheez-It Bowl

Orlando, Fla.

No. 18 Miami vs. Oklahoma St. 5:30 p.m.

(ESPN)

Alamo Bowl

San Antonio

No. 20 Texas vs. Colorado, 9 p.m. (ESPN)

Wednesday, Dec. 30

Duke's Mayo Bowl

Charlotte, N.C.

Wisconsin vs. Wake Forest, Noon (ESPN)

Music City Bowl

Nashville, Tenn.

No. 12 Iowa St. vs. Missouri, 3:30 p.m.

(ESPN)

Cotton Bowl Classic

Arlington, Texas

No. 8 Oklahoma vs. No. 10 Florida, 7:15 p.m.

(ESPN)

Thursday, Dec. 31

Armed Forces Bowl

Fort Worth, Texas

No. 22 Tulsa vs. Mississippi St., Noon (ESPN)

Arizona Bowl

Tucson, Ariz.

No. 19 San Jose St. vs. Ball State., 2 p.m.

(CBSSN)

Liberty Bowl

Memphis, Tenn.

West Virginia vs. Army, 4 p.m. (ESPN)

Texas Bowl

Houston

TCU vs. Arkansas, 8 p.m. (ESPN)

Friday, Jan. 1

Peach Bowl

Atlanta

No. 6 Cincinnati vs. No. 11 Georgia, Noon

(ESPN)

Citrus Bowl

Orlando, Fla.

No. 15 Northwestern vs. Auburn, 1 p.m.

(ABC)

College Football Playoff Semifinal

Arlington, Texas

No. 1 Alabama vs. No. 4 Notre Dame, 4 p.m.

(ESPN)

Sugar Bowl

New Orleans

No. 2 Clemson vs. No. 3 Ohio St., 8 p.m.

(ESPN)

Saturday, Jan. 2

Gator Bowl

Jacksonville, Fla.

No. 24 NC State vs. Kentucky, Noon (ESPN)

Outback Bowl

Tampa, Fla.

(ABC)

Fiesta Bowl

Gilbert, Ariz.

No. 12 Iowa State vs. No. 25 Oregon, 4 p.m.

(ESPN)

Thursday, Dec. 31

Armed Forces Bowl

Fort Worth, Texas

No. 22 Tulsa vs. Mississippi St., Noon (ESPN)

Arizona Bowl

Tucson, Ariz.

No. 19 San Jose St. vs. Ball State., 2 p.m.

(CBSSN)

Cotton Bowl Classic

Arlington, Texas

No. 8 Oklahoma vs. No. 10 Florida, 7:15 p.m.

(ESPN)

Thursday, Dec. 31

Armed Forces Bowl

Fort Worth, Texas

No. 22 Tulsa vs. Mississippi St., Noon (ESPN)

Arizona Bowl

Tucson, Ariz.

No. 19

# Virtual and in-person church services

## Asbury Country Church

At the Sunday, Dec. 27 service at Asbury Country Church, the services will be 9:30 a.m. for Sunday school and 10:30 a.m. for the worship service. The worship and music leader will be Amy Bullick, and the piano will be by Kathy Staggs. The Morning Message will be, "Keep Herod in Christmas" by Pastor Mike Bullick.

## Bachelor Creek Church of Christ

Online services are available by visiting [www.bachelorcreek.com](http://www.bachelorcreek.com).

## Catholic Church Province of Indianapolis

According to Jennifer Simerman, secretary for communications for Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, the following statement has been issued by the Catholic bishops of the Province of Indianapolis, which is comprised of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and the dioceses of Gary, Lafayette, Fort Wayne-South Bend and Evansville: "While commanding our pastors and pastoral life coordinators who have gone to great lengths to assure safe worship spaces in our churches, given the continued increase of COVID-19 cases in our state, the Indiana bishops hereby extend the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of obligation beyond Sunday, Nov. 1 until further notice. The Indiana bishops will continue to monitor the situation to determine when it might be advisable to modify or lift the dispensation." Specific liturgical directives and recommendations, as well as remote Mass participation and resource options, are available on the diocesan website at [www.diocesefwsb.org/covid-19](http://www.diocesefwsb.org/covid-19).

## Christ United Methodist Church

Worship service is streamed live every Sunday on our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/ChristUMC Wabash/](http://www.facebook.com/ChristUMC Wabash/).

## Christian Heritage Church

Streaming services online and broadcast on 95.9 FM.

## College Corner Brethren Church

Pastor Joe Bellone's sermons are posted (with handouts) on both Facebook and YouTube under "College Corner Brethren Church."

## Common Ground Prayer House

The Common Ground Prayer House will be open to the public from 8 to 10 a.m. Mondays, except holidays, at 78 W. Hill St. COVID-19 precautions will be taken in the form of masks being worn by prayer house representatives and social distancing. For more information, call Jennifer Mahan at 260-571-8063, Shirley Neale at 260-591-0047 or Debbie Sweet at 260-571-6072.

## Dora Christian Church

For the Sunday, Dec. 27 services at Dora Christian Church in Lagro, the minister will be Mark Wisniewski, the song leader will be Olman Sanchez, the pianist will be Sherry Brock and the organist will be Kristy Good. We are still having two in-person Sunday morning Services, one at 8:15 a.m. and another at 10:30 a.m., with Sunday School classes for all ages from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. Preacher Mark Wisniewski's message for this Sunday will be "The Day AFTER Christmas" from John 3:1-21. The Communion Table will be served by Brad Frieden and Scott Hendry. There will be a Children's Church provided for the 10:30 a.m. service, to be taught by John Troyer and Janene Wisniewski. If you can't make it to the live services, Preacher Mark Wisniewski's sermon will be posted on the Dora Chris-

tian Church Facebook group Sunday morning for all to see.

## LaFontaine Christian Church

The LaFontaine Christian Church pre-records the sermon which is then available for all to view at [www.lafontainechristian.com](http://www.lafontainechristian.com) under the sermons tab, stated Pastor Brad Wright.

## LaFontaine United Methodist Church

Pastor Susan Shambaugh says that her LaFontaine United Methodist Church is live-streaming on their Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/LaFontaine-United-Methodist-Church> and that it may be accessed as a video afterward.

## Lincolnville United Methodist Church

Lincolnville United Methodist Church will continue to do online services at 10 a.m. Sundays. Services may be found on the Lincolnville UMC Facebook page. For more information, email Pastor John Cook at [pastorjohn1954@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjohn1954@gmail.com) or call 260-563-1406.

## Living Faith Lutheran Church

Welcome to our in-person worship service at 10:10 a.m. Sundays at Living Faith Lutheran Church, 242 S. Huntington St. Bible study and Sunday school are at 9 a.m. for all ages. The sanctuary is arranged for social distancing. Masks are encouraged and available. Online services are at 10:10 a.m., with pre-service music at 10 a.m. For virtual services and more information, visit [www.livingfaithwabash.org](http://www.livingfaithwabash.org).

## Manchester Church of the Brethren

Pastor Kurt Borgmann from the Manchester Church of the Brethren stated they will hold a live-stream service at 9:30 a.m. every Sunday by visiting [www.manchestercob.net](http://www.manchestercob.net). Scroll to the bottom of the home page and click on the black button that says, "Manchester CoB YouTube Channel." After the service is finished, one may access a video copy of the live-stream in the same way. Another way to access the live-stream or posted video: go to YouTube, search "Manchester Church of the Brethren," and click on the circle profile.

## North Manchester Congregational Christian Church

Pastor Sebrena Cline stated live streaming begins on their Facebook page at 10 a.m. Sundays for the North Manchester Congregational Christian Church, and lasts 30 to 40 minutes.

## North Manchester Missionary Church

The North Manchester Missionary Church is streaming live on their Facebook page at 10 a.m. Sunday. The video is then placed on their webpage, which can be viewed by visiting [NMMC1.com](http://NMMC1.com).

## Olive Branch Church of God

The Olive Branch Church of God live-streams Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. Find it through Facebook, by searching Olive Branch Church, or by visiting [www.facebook.com/myolivebranchchurch](http://www.facebook.com/myolivebranchchurch) or through the church website [www.olivebranch.church](http://www.olivebranch.church).

## Southside Free Will Baptist

Streaming on their Facebook page.

## Sweetwater Assembly of God

Streaming services online using the normal service schedule.

## Urbana Yoke Parish

Rev. Larry Wade of the Urbana Yoke Parish stated that his congregation posts Sunday services to [www.urbanayokeparish.com](http://www.urbanayokeparish.com). Go to the menu line at the top of the page and select "Worship Videos." The most recent one will appear first. Sunday services are posted by noon every Tuesday.

## Wabash Church of the Brethren

At the Wabash Church of the Brethren, Pastor Doug Veal is holding a Zoom meeting each Sunday for worship. The meeting is open at 10:15 a.m. so that everyone can be connected by 10:30 a.m. Join this church service by visiting <https://zoom.us/j/393263884> or by calling 312-626-6799 and enter meeting ID No. 393 263 884.

## Wabash Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Wabash Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) offers streaming at 9:30 a.m. Sundays both on their website at [wabashchristian.org](http://wabashchristian.org) and Facebook page, Wabash Christian Church. The minister is Rev. Haley Asberry.

## Wabash Church of the Brethren

Wabash Church of the Brethren, 645 Bond St., hasn't fully opened for in-person services, but services are available to view online at [www.wabashcob.org](http://www.wabashcob.org).

## Wabash Church of the Nazarene

Pastor Kirk Johnson, of the Wabash Church of the Nazarene, stated their service is available on YouTube on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. Find it by going to YouTube and search for "Wabash Nazarene" or search Facebook for the Wabash Church of the Nazarene. Another option is to visit [www.wabashnaz.com](http://www.wabashnaz.com), look for the home page, and find "Latest Sermon."

## Wabash First Church of God

In the 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 27 worship service at Wabash First Church of God, 525 N. Miami St., a Candles, Carols and Communion service will be held. While in the church building, masks are optional but we do practice social distancing. Sunday Servants are Todd Eltzroth, chairperson; Sherry Whitt, worship; Nancy Kolb, piano; and Rose Sands, organ.

## Walk By Faith Community Church

Pastor Greg Wilburn of Roann's Walk By Faith Community Church says to access his online sermons at [www.walkbyfaithcommunitychurch.com](http://www.walkbyfaithcommunitychurch.com).

## Zion Lutheran Church of Wabash

Pastor Jerry Gauthier says that the Zion Lutheran Church of Wabash is streaming through their Facebook page at [www.facebook/zionwabash](http://www.facebook/zionwabash) at 10:30 a.m. Sundays.

*Editor's note: If you have an upcoming event to submit, please send it by email to news@wabashplaindealer.com no later than five days before the event itself. Please use complete sentences, Associated Press style and Microsoft Word or PDF file formats.*

# Indianapolis houses homeless in hotels amid pandemic winter

By SAMM QUINN

Indianapolis Business Journal

Wheeler Mission to support food and staffing from November through March.

INDIANAPOLIS — Making sure that Indianapolis residents experiencing homelessness can escape the cold at night looks different this winter. Hotels are being called on to handle overflow caused by social distancing in shelters.

Every year, Wheeler Mission and the Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention, in collaboration with the city, draft a plan to ensure that anyone experiencing homelessness has adequate shelter on cold winter nights.

That plan usually involves adding as many cots and mats as Wheeler Mission's shelters can hold, often with people sleeping very close to one another. But packing residents inside congregated settings isn't an option in a pandemic.

With that restriction and with the prospect of a Dec. 31 expiration of a federal moratorium on evictions and foreclosures, the city, the public health department and shelters have had to collaborate on—and find funding for—a new strategy.

Indianapolis joins San Francisco, New York, Columbus, Ohio, and other cities that are reserving hotel rooms for the homeless.

The city of Indianapolis used a portion of its Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act funds to reserve roughly 200 rooms at a local hotel since early in the pandemic for high-risk individuals. The Marion County Public Health Department has also reserved hotel rooms for homeless residents who are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19.

Now, the city plans to spend roughly \$4.5 million on winter contingency operations, which include 275 hotel rooms for overflow shelter and financial assistance for

church had space for another 70 men. Altogether, the sites offered 563 beds.

About 100 beds were available to women and children at Wheeler Mission's Center for Women and Children, with another 50 spaces reserved at a local church for overflow.

This winter, to allow for social distancing, just 250 beds are available at the men's shelter, and the residential center is capped at 60. Add 100 rooms available now reserved at the Extended Stay America near the airport, and the total number of beds available for men this year is about 150 fewer than in 2019.

Availability for single women and families is actually higher this year. About 100 beds are still available at the Center for Women and Children, and 175 overflow rooms are reserved at the Hampton Inn Indianapolis Downtown Circle Center.

But beds are already filling up fast, even ahead of the coldest winter months.

Giffin told IBJ almost all the Hampton Inn rooms for women and children are already being used. Rooms remain available at the Extended Stay America hotel reserved for men.

The city is paying the Extended Stay \$55 a night per room and the Hampton Inn \$88 a night per room, a discount from what each hotel would offer to the public, Giffin said. Both hotels told the city the rate is enough for them to at least cover their costs. The city solicited quotes from a wide range of potential hotel partners and selected what it believes is the most cost-effective choice given the needs of each shelter.

Shelters are serving more families than in years past, said Chelsea Haring-Cozzi, executive director at CHIP. "They're seeing numbers they've never seen before."

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## Parkview helps seniors fight depression during a difficult holiday season

The program is currently accepting participants

Staff REPORT

This year, the holiday season – combined with the ongoing pandemic – presents seniors with special challenges.

Parkview Wabash Hospital's LifeBridge Senior Program is encouraging area residents to look out for the well-being of seniors, who are particularly vulnerable to depression right now, according to media and community relations specialist Leslie Megison.

"We've all watched the pandemic take a terrible toll on the nation," said LifeBridge program manager Michelle Starnes, MSW, LCSW. "COVID-19 has claimed more than a quarter of a million lives. The tension and anxiety associated with the situation have put everyone on edge. We've had to deal with new routines of masking in public, using social distancing, washing hands frequently and staying home whenever possible to limit the spread of the virus. But for people over 65 – who are among those most at risk for severe complications or death – the pandemic has been especially stressful. They are at high risk for depression resulting

from the loss of activities that give their lives structure and meaning."

In other words, if you think you've had a tough year, try being an older adult who's been living in isolation.

Working or volunteering, going to church, singing in a choir, attending community events and festivals, traveling, gathering with friends and family members – these activities have become rare to non-existent for some seniors as they've sheltered at home to protect themselves from the virus.

"If they live alone," said Starnes, "they've essentially been isolated from the people and circumstances that bring them joy and comfort. They've lost crucial elements of human connection, the ability to hug someone or hold their hand or even have a face-to-face conversation."

According to Starnes, after months of isolation, "coping mechanisms may be wearing very thin, and the arrival of the holiday season may significantly increase the stress level of older adults. Because of their stage of life, each person may be dealing with multiple factors, any of which can be pushing them toward depression during this time of uncertainty."

These factors include: mourning a spouse, family member or friend lost to COVID or another cause; dealing with chronic illness or more limited physical

abilities; worrying about children, grandchildren or friends; caregiving for a sick spouse or partner; experiencing a loss of control in their lives; feeling life goes on for others but is frozen for them; anxiety about having enough food, supplies and medications on hand; struggling with loneliness; grieving the loss of milestone celebrations (weddings, graduations, etc.); feeling lost without the structure and sense of purpose provided by work or volunteering; missing the chance to share holiday gatherings and traditions with children and grandchildren; and missing absent loved ones.

How can you tell if an older adult you know is depressed? There are many signs, including sleeping difficulties; loss or decrease of appetite; increased substance use; digestive issues, frequent headaches, aches and pains; increased trips to the emergency room or resisting the idea of seeking needed care; expressions of feeling like a burden to family or friends; agitation or irritability; loss of interest in favorite activities; self-isolation or reluctance to talk with those closest to them; memory loss or concentration difficulties; and feelings of helplessness, hopelessness or worthlessness.

"It's important to support seniors while keeping everyone safe and healthy," said

Starnes. "First, put yourself in their shoes. Try to understand their perspective. Next, think creatively, figure out how you can engage them and try to incorporate touches of the holiday season when meaningful. There are plenty of ways you can show you care about the seniors in your life and want to stay connected to them."

She suggests specific steps to help older adults feel included: perform tasks to help them out, use Zoom or other teleconferencing platforms for as many "together" activities as possible, and encourage use of community resources.

Because depression tends to drain a person's energy, Starnes says helping them out by performing useful tasks can not only be helpful but also a real morale booster. Try picking up groceries for them, or making a favorite meal and leaving it on their doorstep. (Be sure to call ahead!) Tackle yard-work or outside household maintenance. Take their pet to the vet for needed care. Haul their garbage cans to and from the curb each week. Shovel snow off their sidewalk and/or driveway.

Technology, adds Starnes, offers a huge benefit in helping people keep some sense of connectedness.

"There are so many ways you can include a loved one, neighbor or other senior in your life by using teleconfer-

encing or video chat apps," says Starnes. "Connect daily or several times weekly. Try to keep things upbeat but not forced. Eat meals 'together' and use the technology as a bridge between you."

Starnes offers these ideas: work on craft projects, tree decorating, organizing family photos, or other activities; cook or bake; listen to, sing or play music; have Grandma or Grandpa read to the kids during story time and drive around and look at Christmas lights "together" thanks to technology that lets you all share the experience.

Other ways of interacting that may also be appreciated: drive-by birthday tributes, posting cards and artwork on seniors' windows, leaving gifts on the doorstep, and making snowpeople or other fun displays outside a window. Starnes suggests giving big, huggable stuffed animals as gifts.

"In the absence of another person or pet in the household, hugging a stuffed animal can still provide a measure of comfort when a person needs someone to hug," she says. "Besides, we're all just kids at heart, no matter what our ages."

Community resources can be helpful, too. Check with senior centers, local food banks and pet food banks through animal shelters. Some churches may have programs to make phone

calls to isolated people. You can support seniors and local businesses by ordering flowers or plants, special food items, holiday décor and other gift items to be delivered or shipped directly to the older adult.

Starnes urges concerned family members, friends, neighbors and others to encourage seniors who are at risk for depression, or exhibiting symptoms, to contact LifeBridge Senior Program. LifeBridge offers individual and group therapy – both in-person and using Zoom – to help seniors 65 and older share their concerns and fears in a nonjudgmental environment, regain perspective and confidence, and learn positive coping skills for dealing with stress. LifeBridge also provides medication management and evaluations by a doctor who specializes in older adult mental health.

The program is currently accepting participants.

Call 260-569-2111 or email michelle.starnes@parkview.com for information.

If you become aware that someone you know is experiencing suicidal thoughts, please urge them to call the National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 800-273-8255, or Parkview Behavioral Health Institute's Help Line at 260-373-7500 or 800-284-8439 to talk with someone immediately.

## Once blighted Indiana church gets new life as event venue

By JORDAN KARTHOLL

Star Press

MUNCIE — David Jennings cracked the plywood-sealed doorway of the former First Christian Church on East North Street, creating an opening that permitted sunlight, for the first time in nearly a decade, to push back the darkness held within the long-deserted space.

More than a hundred years ago, the sanctuary beyond that stone door frame would have been divided by polished, wooden pews painted in multicolored light that beamed through the church's hand-crafted stained glass windows. On the weekends, the brick walls would reverberate with chiming wedding bells and worship, sounds that would emanate up the structure's octagonal steeple that served as a landmark for the surrounding Gilbert Neighborhood since 1903.

But when David Jennings and his two sons, Matthew and Michael Jennings, saw the interior of their newly purchased property for the first time in 2018, that pristine sanctuary only existed in city documents and black and white photographs.

"When we broke in, there was no floor ... we had to actually scale around on a piece of trim to get past the 'no floor zone,'" David said. "What was there was rotten, dilapidated and moldy ... right when you came in the door, there's this dead raccoon that had been there for who knows how long and a waterfall of sludge was falling from the roof."

But, through the filth, David said he saw something in that structure that was fundamentally beautiful.

"We thought about this being torn down ... this building is absolutely gorgeous," Jennings said. "I thought it had to be salvaged somehow ... we had to figure out a way."

His youngest son Michael said the family is motivated to "revitalize" their home city and wants to preserve its culture. Michael said, however, that the fervor needed to complete this "labor of love" had to be sourced by something even greater.

"First of all, we are a Christian family," Michael said. "We aren't saying everything here needs to be 'Christian' ... but it's a shame that a church like this could be abandoned for 20 years; God can still be glorified with this space."

Less than a year after David pried apart the plywood seal, the Jennings family

accomplished something no one else was willing to attempt; they gave miraculous new life to the long-dead church. The First Christian Church, now the North Church Venue, stands as a monument to the family's ingenuity, a space they hope will serve as a lasting, celebrated space for weddings, concerts, parties and other events.

That's great news for Zane Bishop, an administrator for the city's Blight Elimination Program with the Muncie Redevelopment Commission, who said the property sat empty since at least 2007.

"Properties surrounded by vacancy see their values depressed, and vacancy breeds vacancy," Bishop said. "Being the largest and most prestigious of structures in Gilbert, its vacancy certainly had a negative impact on the neighborhood and surrounding area."

According to research compiled by the Delaware County Historical Society, the site's origins in the Gilbert Neighborhood actually date back to the late 1800s when a congregation of Presbyterians that was meeting for church services at City Hall decided to buy the plot of land at North and Elm Streets.

After 81 years and several changes in denomination – which ended under affiliation with the United Church of Christ – the house of worship's regular attendees had all but died out and the church officially disbanded in 1984. The property was purchased by another would-be preacher in 1985 but, later that year, was abandoned again due to lack of funding.

Articles from The Star Press published at that time indicate First Christian Church sat vacant for 17 years until 2002 when Spirit and Truth Ministries, headed by pastor Beverly Ann Plummer, began meeting at the location. Plummer held ownership of the structure until 2010 when local government officials, by then seeking \$8,600 in unpaid property taxes, couldn't locate her and concluded she had left the city.

In 2014 the building, which at that point had been decimated by years of exposure to the elements and vandalism, was acquired by the Muncie Redevelopment Commission through a transfer from the county.

Bishop said the city was eager to sell the church because, like the dozens of other vacant buildings owned by the MRC, it was a financial burden on the

community. For years, no bids were received.

"The Jennings were the only ones able and bold enough to take on such a project," Bishop said.

David Jennings, a Wapahani High School grad, grew up in Selma and, after graduating college, found lucrative work in banking. Having a lifelong interest in art and feeling creatively unfulfilled, David said he decided to risk his economic safety to start his own Chicago construction business in the late 1980s.

"I've been in construction now for more than 30 years," David said. "I've worked on multimillion-dollar projects, buildings 10 times this size ... but this church is the most dangerous building I've done."

David purchased the church from Muncie for \$100 in 2018.

Before he and his two sons could even consider renovations, temporary support columns had to be installed to hold up the crumbling roof.

"We rented out almost all the scaffolding in town to support that roof," David said. "You had to hold the roof up just to be able to take it apart."

Michael Jennings, who graduated from Lindenwood University with a degree in marketing this year, recalled being daunted by the task he and his brother were facing in helping to rebuild the long-decayed church.

"It was overwhelming: the roof was caving in, 24 tons of it had to come off," Michael said. "When you're carrying thousands of pounds of rubble, bucket by bucket, and tossing it out of broken windows it's hard to envision an end product."

The church is the first renovation the family has completed together. Michael "graduated early" from Lindenwood six months ahead of commencement due to COVID-19 and moved in with his older brother, Matthew, who had already joined their father in Muncie to help tackle the colossal project.

"We decided we're all in quarantine anyway ... let's get some work done," Michael said.

David said he didn't foresee the church project leaving a meaningful impression on their relationships, but he's happy that it did.

"As a parent, I love it ... bringing the kids together, it's wonderful," Jennings said. "That's not to say we didn't fight ... when you're down here with a pitchfork trying to break through ice

to get to frosted, moldy wood and you know you're going to be doing that for another month, yeah, you fight ... but we love each other so we got through it."

With two to four people working at the site each day, the Jennings family was able to complete the renovation in about eight months.

"All of our equity is being able to work 16 hour days no matter what the weather and take pride in what we do," Michael said.

In addition to the dangerously unstable roof, Jennings said the project was extraordinary for him in that, unlike the work he's done previously, he wasn't supported by millions of dollars in backing from investors. The result is Jennings had to rely more heavily on resourcefulness.

Virtually everything in the North Church Venue, from the bannisters to the tables to the lights to the wall decor, was salvaged from a New Castle scrapyard or from the wreckage of the First Christian Church itself.

Matthew built the entryway stairs out of church pews. Michael and David used busted church pianos to make railings and artwork. Chandeliers made of farming equipment and grandfather clock parts hang from the reconstructed ceiling.

"We literally kept everything we could," Michael said. "It gives it an industrial or steampunk kind of vibe but we also kept the Victorian Gothic feel."

Nature helps adorn the North Church Venue too. David, who has a degree in biology, offset the warm, wooden colors and Gothic, industrial aesthetic with flowers, plants and a walled-in outdoor garden. Massive boulders from Muncie's Schick Sand and Gravel form tables and the exterior of a first-floor stage.

"We had to use an excavator to shimmy those boulders in through the front door ... the back wheels of the excavator were floating because they were so heavy," Michael said. "I was against it at first but dad was right ... everyone says they love them."

No one would guess that the Jennings have no formal education in interior design or art. David said he and his sons take naturally to aesthetic and his sons were pivotal in early design decisions that shaped the Venue.

"We had about 4,400 square-feet of dungeon-like basement filled with mold,

dilapidated wood, plaster, dead animals and 20 years of flowing muck coming from the roof," David said. "We didn't want to build it back into a Habit trail ... you open it up and suddenly it's beautiful."

David compared the choice to go "open concept" at the cost of rooms and walls to another project he headed on Wheeling Avenue, the Red Sun Buffet building. He said, similarly, renovating that building for Bee Clean Laundry required a seemingly counter-intuitive simplification of space.

The original stained glass windows at the church are perhaps the most obvious and striking use of salvaged material at the North Church Venue. Clear glass panels fill otherwise destroyed, empty sections of the vibrant mosaics that illuminate each area of the building. The windows bear the history of the church, both its artistry and its scars.

"You don't fix the stained glass, you don't paint it ... then it will just look like everything else," David said. "It took 120 years to look the way it does; you have to salvage what gives it so much character."

David said the grueling months he and his sons put into the North Church Venue seem to have paid off. In addition to tens of thousands of engagements on its Facebook page and multiple requests for bookings in 2021, he said the community has responded to the effort with gratitude.

"At least four people a day stopped by for weeks to thank us for doing this, knowing the building wouldn't be destroyed," David said.

Michael, who is the marketing and events coordinator for the venue, said they are renting the space out for 2021 dates and will accommodate for COVID-19 restrictions as needed. He said he and his family see potential for growth in Muncie and they hope the North Church Venue helps breathe new life into the neighborhood.

"We want to see Muncie revitalized," Michael said. "We're partnering with local businesses, bakers, bars, entertainers, trying to work locally with them and we've gotten great feedback and a lot of excitement."

David said he wants to use momentum from the success of the venue to take on more Muncie properties.

"My intent is to just keep right on going through downtown," David said. "Anything the city doesn't want, we'll fix it."

Each day, at sunset in the North Church Venue, a triple group of stained glass windows on the west side of the building glows brightly.

"You can tell whoever designed this originally knew about light, they thought about the way it came in at sunset," David said.

Aside from the more luminous sections of clear glass panels, David said the colored light must fall on what was once a sanctuary in much the same way it did nearly a century ago. He said he's happy about the future he and sons might have secured for the historic building.

"It's been an amazing project and I'm so happy it's been part of my life," David said. "I love the idea that this thing could potentially last another 100 years."

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INJURED  
in an

## Legals

## LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on December 18, 2020, Indiana Gas Company, Inc. d/b/a Vectren Energy Delivery of Indiana, Inc., a CenterPoint Energy Company ("Vectren North") filed a petition with the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (the "Commission") for (1) authority to modify its rates and charges for gas utility service through a phase in of rates, (2) approval of new schedules of rates and charges, and new and revised riders, (3) approval of a new tax savings credit rider, (4) approval of Vectren North's energy efficiency portfolio of programs and authority to extend Petitioner's Energy Efficiency Rider ("EER"), including the decoupling mechanism effectuated through the EER, (5) approval of revised depreciation rates applicable to gas plant in service, (6) approval of necessary and appropriate accounting relief, and (7) approval of an alternative regulatory plan pursuant to which Vectren North would continue its customer bill assistance programs. The petition will be considered by the Commission as part of Cause No. 45468.

Richard C. Leger  
Vice President, Regional Operations  
VECTREN, A CENTERPOINT ENERGY COMPANY  
[hspaxip12/26/2020](http://hspaxip12/26/2020)

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Includes the Participating (In GA: Designated) Providers and Preventive Benefits Rider. Product not available in all states. Acceptance guaranteed for one insurance policy/certificate of this type. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solicitation. This specific offer is not available in CO, NY, call 1-800-969-4781 or respond for similar offer. Certificate C250A (ID: C250E: PA: C250Q; Insurance Policy PI50 (GA: PI506A; NY: PI50NY; OK: PI50OK; TN: PI50TN); Rider kinds B438/B439 (GA: B439B).

6255

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## Special Notice

# Husband emails girlfriends he had during 10-year separation

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband and I were married for several years, divorced, then remarried 10 years later. During our separation, he had a lot of girlfriends. To this day, he keeps all their contact information.

**Dear Abby**



I discovered he has emailed some of them since we've been back together. I think he uses email to avoid any phone calls that I would be aware of.

Our marriage is overall going well, but I don't understand his need to keep up with some of these past "friends." When we remarried, I deleted all of my past contacts. I'm worried that he's still attached to at least a few of these women, and I don't think it's right. What do you think? It makes me very insecure and upset. What should I do? I'm already in therapy.

— Uneasy In The South

**DEAR UNEASY:** Marriage is a choice. Your husband CHOSE to remarry you. I am going to assume that because of your insecurity, you have been hesitant to ask him directly why he feels a need to stay in touch with these women. Your therapist may be able to help you with this. If he/she is willing to invite him to accompany you for a session, consider posing the question there.

**DEAR ABBY:** I recently contracted coronavirus and had a difficult time recovering. It has been three months, and I am still suffering from long-term aftereffects.

When my co-workers and supervisors ask how I'm feeling and I tell them, they almost immediately downplay my response. Some of them ignore my response and tell me, "Oh, that's not bad. One time, I lost so much hair, blah, blah," or they say, "Well, you're working. You'll be fine." I feel like it belittles me and makes what I went through seem like a bid for sympathy. How would you recommend I reply? I can't ignore the people at work.

— Downplayed Up North

**DEAR DOWNPLAYED:** All you need to say is, "If it happens to you, you will understand that I feel lucky to be alive. So many people weren't."

**DEAR ABBY:** I have a question about etiquette. My son is getting married soon. In a conversation with the bride-to-be, I asked if she had chosen a florist and was told that her mom will be making all the wedding flowers out of natural materials. Abby, I hate silk, i.e. "plastic" flowers! Would I be creating a huge problem if I offered to purchase my own wrist corsage from a florist, or should I keep quiet and deal with ugly fake "flowers" with my beautiful dress? Or, can I remove the fake corsage directly after photos are taken? — Offended Mom Of The Groom

**DEAR OFFENDED MOM:** The proper thing to do is keep your opinion to yourself and go along with the plans your soon-to-be daughter-in-law and her mother have made. Wear the corsage and your sweetest smile for the wedding photos. After that it shouldn't cause a problem if you QUIETLY remove it.

**Dear Abby** is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 96440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

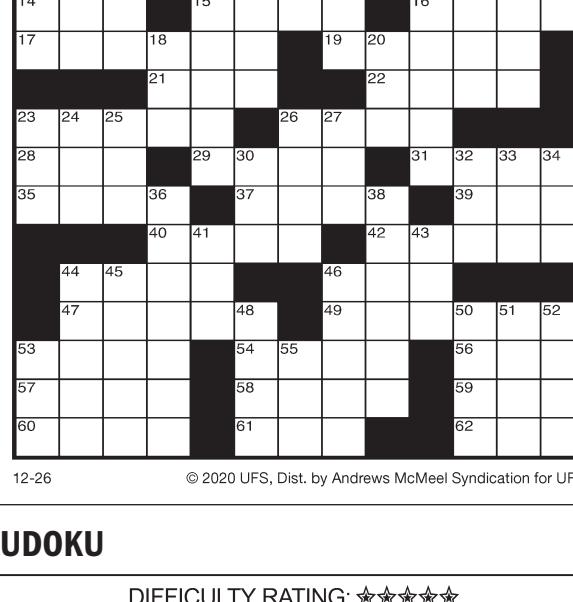
## CROSSWORD

**ACROSS**

- 1 Came down with 42 Nebraska city
- 4 Director — Craven 44 Harps on 46 Swamp 47 Zodiac sign
- 7 Jane Austen novel 49 Scared 53 Level 54 Grimm villain
- 11 Royal pronoun 56 Ostrichlike bird
- 12 Behalf — Coward 57 Sharp pain 58 Unwanted plant
- 13 Playwright 59 Nocturnal predator
- 14 Ms. Hagen 60 Melodramatic cry
- 15 Kind of farm 61 Look sleepy
- 16 Recipe amt. 62 Ell preceder
- 17 Broke in 19 Soprano — Callas
- 21 W-2 collectors
- 22 Lots of qts.
- 23 Puerto Rican port
- 26 Lowly laborer
- 28 Impress deeply
- 29 Prognostication
- 31 Adorn with ornaments
- 35 Ration out
- 37 Whip
- 39 Frost
- 40 Mortgage

**DOWN**

- 1 Sixty minutes
- 2 Jalopy
- 3 Faded
- 4 Dependents
- 5 Scratch out a living
- 6 Look like
- 7 Contest hopeful
- 8 1999 Exxon mergee
- 9 Geologic formations
- 10 Peak for Heidi
- 12 Record player
- 18 Razor brand
- 20 Earlier
- 23 Tillis or Dawber
- 24 Be in hock
- 25 Beauty-salon item
- 26 Potting medium
- 27 Annapolis grad
- 30 Sports org.
- 32 Estuary
- 33 Freud, to himself
- 34 culpa
- 36 Garden borders
- 38 it (walked)
- 41 Compass dir.
- 43 Dugout VIP
- 44 Maritime
- 45 Skybox locale
- 46 Divulged
- 48 Dispersed
- 50 Berserk
- 51 Sioux City site
- 52 "What's My Line?" host
- 53 Clean water org.
- 55 Earth (prefix)



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## SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆



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How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

### PREVIOUS SOLUTION

2	9	5	3	8	1	4	6	7
3	7	6	5	4	9	2	8	1
8	4	1	7	2	6	3	5	9
4	3	2	1	6	7	5	9	8
9	1	8	4	3	5	6	7	2
6	5	7	2	9	8	1	3	4
7	8	3	6	1	4	9	2	5
5	2	4	9	7	3	8	1	6
1	6	9	8	5	2	7	4	3

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## JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

BLAEC

UAGGE

PESEYL

NYILAM

THAT SCRABLED WORD GAME  
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

May we purchase one of your books?

Do you have every word in here?

Of course!

WHEN ASKED IF HIS NEW DICTIONARY COULD BE PURCHASED, NOAH WEBSTER SAID ---

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Yesterday's Jumbles: ABIDE HELLO JIGSAW FROZEN

Answer: The chef who specialized in cooking grouper, tuna, cod, etc. was an — "A-FISH-IONADO"

(Answers Monday)

12-26

BLAEC UAGGE PESEYL NYILAM

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# church Directory

## ASSEMBLY OF GOD

**Gospel Light Assembly of God**, 347 Southwood Drive. Pastor Neil Jeffrey. Sunday School 9:45am (all ages). Morning worship service 10:30am. Evening service 6pm. Wednesday midweek service 7pm; Kids' Korral Wednesday 7pm. Youth meeting 7pm (ages 12-19).

**Sweetwater Assembly of God**, 2551 SR 114 E, North Manchester. (260) 982-6179. Sunday worship 9am & 10:45am. Sunday evening outreach groups & youth ministry 5-7pm. Wednesday 6:30pm adult/teen bible study, 6:30pm Kidz Zone (K thru 6th grade). All worship services streaming online and on our Facebook page.

## BAPTIST

**Emmanuel Free Will Baptist**, 129 Southwood Drive. Pastor Terry Hinds. (260) 563-3009. Sunday School 9:30am. Sunday Worship 10:30am & 6pm; Children's Church 10:30am. Wednesday morning prayer service 11am. Wednesday Prayer meeting 6pm. Transportation available. Sunday worship services streaming on our Facebook page

**Southside Free Will Baptist**, 360 Columbus Street. Pastor Tim Webb. Sunday School 10am. Worship Service 11am. Sunday Evening 6pm. Wednesday Evening 6pm. Sunday worship services streaming online

**Wabash Free Will Baptist Church**, 1056 Erie Street. Wednesday evening prayer meeting 6pm. Sunday School 10am, Church 11am; evening service 6pm.

## CATHOLIC

**St. Bernard Catholic Church**, corner of Cass & Sinclair. Father Levi Nkwocha. Masses will resume, with safety restrictions, beginning May 23-24, 2020. Everyone attending Mass must wear a face mask. Masses: Saturday 5:30 p.m. and Sunday 9:30 a.m.; Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 5:30 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday at 8:15 a.m.

**St. Patrick's Catholic Church**, Main Street in Lagro, Welcomes You Back! New Service Time 11:00 AM Sunday, October 4, Sunday November 1 and Sunday December 6. In keeping with COVID-19 State Rules, please wear a mask and socially distance. Let Us Worship Together.

## CHRISTIAN CHURCH

**Christian Heritage Church**, 2776 River Road. (260) 569-7710. Pastor Tim Prater. Sunday 8:30am. Radio Ministry 95.9 WKUZ. Sunday School 9:30am. Morning Service 10:30am. Sunday evening 6pm. Wednesday evening 6pm. Online services on Sunday at 10:30 am and Wednesday 6:00 pm

**LaFontaine Christian Church**, 202 Bruner Pike, LaFontaine. Minister Brad Wright. (765) 981-2101. Worship 9am & 10:30am, Nursery & Jr. Church available. Online Services available on our website

## A MANGER SCENE

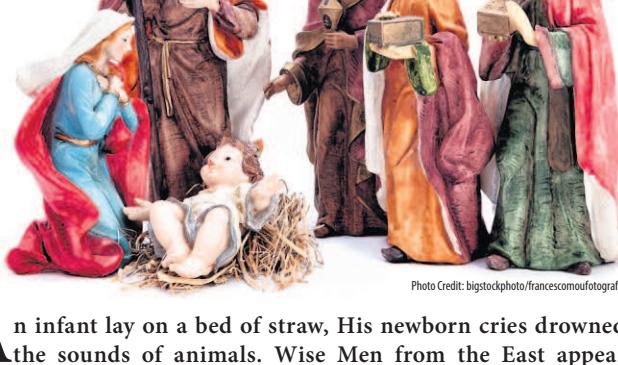


Photo Credit: bigstockphoto/francescomontotografo

An infant lay on a bed of straw, His newborn cries drowned by the sounds of animals. Wise Men from the East appeared, dressed in rich fabrics and carrying jewels; the finest of their gifts of fragrance mingled with the animals' scent. Weatherworn shepherds trembled in awe at the scene before them...still stunned from their encounter with angels. Mary and Joseph could not take their eyes from the true miracle God had entrusted to their care...a babe destined for perfection...born into a humble scene...yet, bathed in glory. In this holiest of seasons, share in the celebration of God like the Wise Men did; honor the birth of His only Son and worship Him.

### Daily Bible Reading

Isaiah 8:21-9:7	Luke 1:1-25	Luke 1:26-56	Luke 1:57-80	Luke 2:1-20	John 1:1-18	Luke 2:21-52
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Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society X Daily Devotional at DailyBible.AmericanBible.org

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## CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Church of Christ**, Wabash (corner of N Wabash Street and US 24). Evangelist Josh Fennell (260) 563-8234. Sunday School 9am. Morning Worship 10am. Evening Worship 6:30pm. Wednesday Service 7pm. Wednesday Kid's Jam 7pm.

## CHURCH OF GOD

**First Church of God**, 525 N. Miami Street. Pastor Robert Rensberger. (260) 563-5346. Sunday School at 9:15am, for all ages. Continental breakfast at 10am. Sunday Morning Worship is at 10:30am. Nursery care is available during worship service. Stair lift available.

## CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

**Wabash Church of the Brethren**, 645 Bond Street (off Falls Avenue). Pastor Doug Veal. (260) 563-5291. Wherever you are on life's journey, come join us as we continue the work of Jesus... Peacefully, Simply, Together. Sunday School 9:30am. Worship 10:30am. Children's church and nursery available during worship. Online Service through website or conference call.

## DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

**Wabash Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**, 110 W. Hill St., Wabash; Rev. Haley Asberry, Minister; phone: 260-563-4179; website: www.wabashchristian.org. Worship Service 9:30 a.m.; Fellowship 10:30 a.m.; Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Nursery provided. Find us on Facebook. Services streaming on our website and Facebook.

## FRIENDS CHURCH

**Wabash Friends Church**, 3563 S State Rd 13. (260) 563-8452. Lead Pastor, Brandon Eaton. Join us for Church at Home, our live-streamed service, on Facebook on Sunday morning at 10:45AM. In person services are temporarily suspended.

## INDEPENDENT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

**Bachelor Creek Church of Christ**, 4 miles north of Wabash on St. Rd. 15; phone 260-563-4109; website: bachelorcreek.com; Worship Minister - Michael Eaton, Student Minister - David Diener, Children's Minister - Tyler Leland, Middle School & Small Groups Minister - Nate Plyler, Next Steps & Outreach Minister - Ryan Keim, Women's Director- Taylor McFarland, Early Childhood Director - Janet Legesse. Worship 9:15 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

## LUTHERAN

**Living Faith Lutheran Church (NALC)**, 242 S. Huntington St., Wabash, IN. Worship begins each Sunday morning at 10:10 a.m. with Bible study classes for all ages at 9:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome to join us for worship. Worship Services live streamed on our website. www.LivingFaithWabash.org

**Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA)**, 1500 S Wabash Street. Pastor Dr. Kent Young. (260) 563-6626. We worship our Lord each Sunday at 9:30am with Gospel-based message and Holy Communion. There is a time of fellowship and refreshments immediately following the service. We are handicap accessible and everyone is welcome at Trinity! tlcwabash@gmail.com.

## UNITED METHODIST

**North Manchester United Methodist Church**, 306 E Second Street, North Manchester. Pastor Steve Bahrt. (260) 982-7537. Worship Service 8:15am & 10:30am. Coffee Fellowship 9am. Sunday School 9:30am.

**Richvalley United Methodist Church**, 290 N Jefferson. (260) 563-1033. Pastor Jack Suits. Worship service begins at 9:30am. Nursery available. Sunday School begins at 10:45am for all age.

**Roann United Methodist Church**, Corner of Adams and Arnold Street, Roann. Pastor Wayne Balmer. (765) 833-2931. Worship Celebration 9am. Sunday School 10:15am.



# CHURCHES

(Businesses, too)

Advertise your special services, bake sales, breakfasts, suppers, ice cream socials, concerts, or any special event.

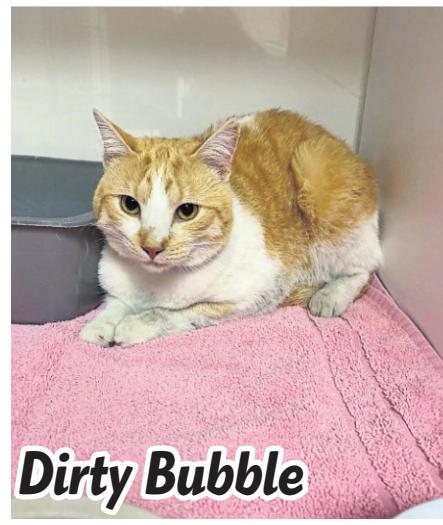
Call to advertise here.

**765-671-2259**

# Adopt! Don't Shop!



Fishtail



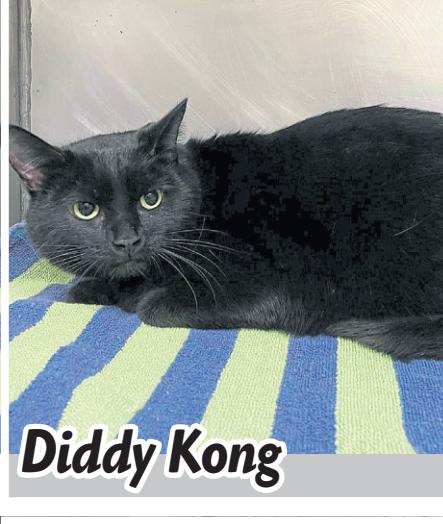
Dirty Bubble



Cappuccino



Pitter Pat



Diddy Kong



Detail



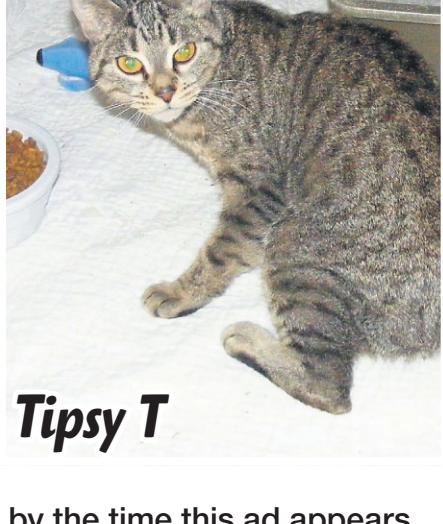
Jacko



Esmeralda



Sunbear



Tipsy T



Expresso



Marocchino

\* Some animals may be adopted by the time this ad appears.

## TAKE HOME YOUR NEW BEST FRIEND TODAY!

Please call or come see us if you lost your pet, are looking to adopt, want to volunteer, or have any questions!

### Animal Shelter of Wabash

810 Manchester Ave • Wabash

**260-563-3511**

Tue: 11:00 am - 7:00 pm

Wed: 11:00 am - 5:00 pm

Thu: 11:00 am - 7:00 pm

Fri: 11:00 am - 5:00 pm

Sat: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm



### Wabash County Animal Shelter Donations Needed

- Kitten Food
- Puppy Food
- Dog Food
- Kitty Litter
- Paper Towels
- Fabric Softener Sheets
- Bleach
- High Efficiency Laundry Soap
- Pine-sol
- Disinfecting Wipes

### Adoption Fees:

Dogs \$55

Cats \$40

Puppies \$65  
(Under 6 mos.)

Kittens \$50  
(Under 6 mos.)

All Animals have preliminary shots and are spayed or neutered. Most animals have had their rabies shots.

I would like to donate to:

Med Program

Cat/Dog Supplies

Spay/Neuter Program

Misc. Supplies

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Mail Form to: Animal Shelter of Wabash Co.  
810 Manchester Avenue  
Wabash, IN 46992

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260.571.2237  
www.allaboutthedog.us



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260.774.3322

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